

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a network including at least one server for communicating with at least one client, a method comprising:

receiving a data packet from a client, the data packet including a first destination address;

5 changing the first destination address to a second destination address;  
transmitting the data packet with the second destination address via the network;

receiving the data packet transmitted via the network;

translating the second destination address back to the first destination address;

10 and

forwarding the data packet to the server using the first destination address.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

encrypting the second destination address before transmitting the data packet.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

decrypting the second destination address before translating the second destination address.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the changing includes:

mapping the first destination address to the second destination address using a mapping algorithm.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first destination address includes first port information associated with a port on the server and the changing includes:

mapping the first port information to second port information.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the translating includes:

translating the second port information back to the first port information.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining whether the first destination address is included in a set of predetermined addresses before changing the first destination address.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising  
determining whether the second destination address is included in a set of predetermined addresses before translating the second destination address.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining whether to change the first destination address based on a current time and whether the first destination address is in a set of predetermined addresses.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
determining whether to translate the second destination address based on the time and whether the second destination address is in a set of predetermined address.
11. A system for mapping destination information, comprising:  
a memory configured to store a mapping algorithm; and  
a processor configured to:  
receive a data packet including a first destination address, the first  
5 destination address representing a real destination address,  
change the first destination address to a second destination address  
using the mapping algorithm, and  
transmit the data packet with the second destination address.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the processor is further configured to:  
encrypt the second destination address before transmitting the data packet.
13. The system of claim 11, wherein the data packet includes first port  
information associated with a server, wherein the processor is further configured to:  
map the first port information to second port information using the mapping  
algorithm.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the processor is further configured to:  
determine whether the first destination address is included in a set of  
predetermined addresses before changing the first destination address.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein the processor is further configured to:  
determine whether to change the first destination address based on a current  
time and whether the first destination address is in a set of predetermined addresses.

16. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of  
sequences of instructions, said instructions including sequences of instructions which,  
when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform the steps of:

- 5 receiving a data packet including a first destination address, the first  
destination address representing a real destination address;  
changing the first destination address to a second destination address using a  
mapping algorithm; and  
transmitting the data packet with the second destination address.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, including instructions for  
causing said processor to perform the further step of:  
encrypting the second destination address before transmitting the data packet.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the first destination  
address includes first port information associated with a port on a server and the  
changing includes:

mapping the first port information to second port information.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, including instructions for  
causing said processor to perform the further step of:

determining whether the first destination address is included in a set of  
predetermined addresses before changing the first destination address.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 16, including instructions for causing said processor to perform the further step of:

determining whether to change the first destination address based on the time and whether the first destination address is in a set of predetermined addresses.

21. A system for mapping destination information, comprising:

a memory configured to store a translation algorithm; and

a processor configured to:

5 receive a data packet including a first destination address, the first destination address representing mapped destination address information, translate the first destination address to a second destination address using the translation algorithm, the second destination address representing a real destination address, and forward the data packet using the second destination address.

22. The system of claim 21, the mapped destination address information being encrypted, wherein the processor is further configured to:

decrypt the mapped destination address information concurrently with the translating.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the first destination address includes first port information representing mapped port information, wherein the processor is configured to:

5 translate the first port information to second port information, the second port information representing real port information.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the processor is further configured to:

determine whether the first destination address is included in a set of predetermined addresses before translating the first destination address.

25. The system of claim 21, wherein the processor is further configured to:

determine whether to translate the first destination address based on a current time and whether the first destination address is in a set of predetermined addresses.

26. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of sequences of instructions, said instructions including sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform the steps of:

- receiving a data packet including a first destination address, the first  
5 destination address representing a mapped destination address;
- translating the first destination address to a second destination address using a translation algorithm, the second destination address representing a real destination address; and
- forwarding the data packet using the second destination address.

27. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the data packet comprises encrypted information, the computer-readable medium including instructions for causing said processor to perform the further step of:

decrypting the encrypted information before translating the data packet.

28. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the first destination address includes first port information representing mapped port information, wherein the translating includes:

- translating the first port information to second port information, the second  
5 port information representing real port information.

29. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, including instructions for causing said processor to perform the further step of:

determining whether the first destination address is included in a set of predetermined addresses before translating the first destination address.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, including instructions for causing said processor to perform the further step of:

determining whether to translate the first destination address based on a current time and whether the first destination address is in a set of predetermined addresses.

31. A system for mapping and translating destination information in a network including at least one server for communicating with a plurality of client workstations, comprising:

means for receiving a data packet including a first destination address;

means for changing the first destination address to a second destination address;

means for transmitting the data packet with the second destination address via the network;

means for receiving the data packet transmitted via the network;

means for translating the second destination address back to the first destination address; and

means for forwarding the data packet to the server using the first destination address.

32. In a network including at least one client and at least one server, a system comprising:

an address translator configured to:

receive a data packet from a client, the data packet including a first destination address wherein the first destination address represents a real destination address,

change the first destination address to a second destination address, and

transmit the data packet with the second destination address via the network; and

an address translator configured to:

receive the data packet transmitted via the network,

translate the second destination address back to the first destination address, and

15 forward the data packet to the server using the first destination address.

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